18th December 1947]

Ration shops in the Vizagapatam district.

* 200 Q.—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) the number of ration shops in the Vizagapatam district run by merchants and co-operative stores in 1946–47;

(b) how many ration shops have been transferred from merchants to co-operative societies in 1946–47 on account of their faults or for no fault of theirs; and

(c) in the case of the merchants whose shops have been transferred to the co-operative societies for no fault of their own, whether the Government propose to order their restoration to the merchants?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) Number of shops run by merchants was 2,082 and that by Co-operative Stores 172.

" (b) 63.

" (c) No; unless the societies who took over the shops prove themselves incompetent or unsatisfactory."

No. 3 Ration shop in the Poonamallee Panchayat area.

* 201 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether on 1st September 1947 the Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies inspected No. 3 ration shop in Poonamallee Panchayat area;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner detected one bag of rice in excess of what the accounts could show;

(c) whether the ration shop agent was unable to explain the surplus;

(d) whether the Deputy Commissioner has ordered strong action against the shop agent on 13th September 1947; and

(e) what action was taken in the matter?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) The Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies (Central) inspected ration shop No. 104/46 (Branch No. 3) in Poonamallee on 3rd July 1947 and not on 1st September 1947.

" (b) An excess of 35 measures of rice was detected.

" (c) The explanation of the retailer was not considered satisfactory.

" (d) The Collector of Chingleput was asked to take suitable action against the retailer.

" (e) The retail dealer was punished by forfeiture of Rs. 20 out of his security deposit, and was also severely warned."